Housing condition of Dalits and Minorities

3303. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are being taken to improve the housing condition of Dalits and Minorities in the cities and towns; and

(b) whether his Ministry has done any study on the housing condition of minorities and the reasons for a large number of them having to survive in ghettoes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, this Ministry has formulated the first urban area focussed National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, which has been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007. The policy seeks to set in motion a process for providing Affordable Housing for All particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

The Policy aims to make special efforts for catering to the needs of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Minorities, Disabled persons, slum dwellers, street vendors other informal sector workers and other vulnerable sections of the society in relation to housing and access to basic services.

The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers/urban poor including Dalits and Minorities of identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States for taking up projects for housing and infrastructural facilities for slum dwellers/urban poor in 63 select cities in the country under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP). Other cities and towns are covered under the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). JNNURM envisages a minimum of 12% beneficiary contribution, which in the case of SC/ST/Backward Classes/OBC/Physically Handicapped and other weaker section is 10%.

This Ministry has not done any specific study on the housing condition of minorities.

Housing shortage and ceiling on prices of LIG and MIG flats

3304. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of shortage of houses in urban areas;

(b) Government's plan and initiative to face the challenges and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering ceiling in prices of LIG and MIG flats so that the private sector cannot increase the prices at their will?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the estimates made by the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the Tenth Five year Plan, the total housing shortage in the country is 24.71 million. The category-wise housing shortage is as follows:—

Category	Housing shortage in Million as on 2007.
Economically Weaker Section (EWS)	21.78
Low Income Group (LIG)	2.89
Middle Income Group (MIG)	0.04
High Income Group (HIG)	
TOTAL:	24.71

(b) 'Land' and 'colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily for the State Governments to provide for affordable houses for the people.

However, in order to address the issue of housing shortage, the first urban area specific housing policy titled the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 has been formulated which was laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007. The Policy seeks to set in motion a process for providing 'Affordable Housing for All' particularly for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG) through various types of public-private partnerships.

Apart from NUHHP, 2007 the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government in the year 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities under the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and in other the Sub-Mission Basic Services Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Also a provision of Rs. 95 crores has been made in the current financial year 2008-09 to provide interest rate subsidy on housing loans to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the Low Income Group (LIG) under a new scheme.

(c) There is no proposal for putting a ceiling on the prices of LIG and MIG flats.

Employment guarantee scheme for BPL people in urban areas

3305. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce any scheme for guaranteed employment to people living below poverty line in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is already implementing an employment-oriented Centrally sponsored scheme for urban poverty alleviation, named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme of SJSRY strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and